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Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

10th Edition

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With *A Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, first published by Oxford University Press in 1948, A. S. Hornby effectively invented the concept of 'a learner's dictionary'. As a teacher, he realized that what learners needed from a dictionary was quite different: simple definitions and helpful illustrations to aid understanding, but also information on how to use the language – how to pronounce words and how to combine them correctly in phrases and sentences.

Over 70 years later much has changed in the world, in the language and in English language teaching. English language learners worldwide are continually increasing in their numbers and in the diversity of their learning contexts. Traditional classroom teaching is still very strong but digital media now also have a significant role to play.

This new edition of the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* remains true to the principles that Hornby established: the needs of the learner are paramount and have informed every policy decision and the construction of every entry. At the same time, it takes advantage of technology to offer learners additional resources to complement the print dictionary, as well as alternative modes of accessing the dictionary itself

(online or app) that may better meet the needs of many learners in the digital age.

Whatever the medium, the focus is on building vocabulary and developing skills. We have revised and updated the Oxford 3000, our core vocabulary list, and added 2,000 words to the core list for advanced-level students, creating the Oxford 5000. See page x for more details about these lists. The Writing Tutor and Speaking Tutor (with interactive iWriter and iSpeaker online) offer models and tips for exam students and for everyday communication.

Skills development is also one of the purposes of the Hornby Educational Trust, founded by A. S. Hornby with the aim of advancing the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language. The Trust supports a range of activities both in the UK and around the world. Since the Trust was set up in 1961 more than 400 professionals from around the world have received Hornby Scholarships to study at a British university and learn more about the teaching of English. Below, one of them writes about his experience as a Hornby Scholar, and how he has been able to pass on the fruits of this experience to others.

Diana Lea
Managing Editor

Being a Hornby Scholar

I graduated as a teacher of English in Argentina in 2000 and soon after graduation I decided to live in a small Patagonian city, Esquel, where I am still based. In 2008 I was honoured with a Hornby Scholarship to undertake MA studies in the UK. In my case I chose the University of Warwick as I was interested in their professional development modules. That year at Warwick was amazing, with far-reaching reverberations at personal and professional levels. Living on campus in a multicultural society provided me with opportunities to develop intercultural awareness and make friends I am still in contact with. At a professional level, the MA programme allowed me to gain confidence and knowledge in English language teacher education and academic literacy.

Looking back, my experience as a Hornby Scholar has enabled me to make an impact in three broad areas: language curriculum development, professional development opportunities and teacher identity.

Concerning language curricula, since 2008 I have co-developed official English language teaching curricula for primary, secondary and pre-service English language teacher education. What was innovative in these curricula was the introduction of content and language integrated learning (CLIL) as a language teaching approach for state schools in Argentina. In Chubut, these curricula marked the beginning of bottom-up curriculum design in language education, which seeks to democratize decision-making processes in terms of education policies.

Supported by the Ministry of Education in Chubut and APIZALS, a teacher association based in Patagonia, I started to design and implement professional

development opportunities in Patagonia. Before my initiatives, professional development opportunities in Patagonia used to be mostly led by experts from Buenos Aires. However, thanks to the knowledge gained in my MA programme, I have facilitated courses on action research and ELT methods and contributed to promoting local expertise and spreading professional development opportunities. These provide context-responsive pedagogies set in southern Argentina.

Last, I founded the *Argentinian Journal of Applied Linguistics* in order to promote teacher research identity among teachers. Drawing on my experience in the UK, I encourage other teachers to become involved in activities such as presenting at conferences in Argentina and Latin America, doing classroom research and writing for publication. Language educators from less-known institutions have accepted the challenge of presenting and publishing, drawing on their classroom experiences. This has become a source of teacher motivation as teachers feel they can engage in other professional activities apart from teaching.

The experience generated thanks to the Hornby Scholarship has taught me that I do not need to be based in a big city or a large university to introduce changes in my context. I have learnt that I have to make things happen and engage others in doable context-responsive projects which aim at improving language education and making our social fabric stronger and fairer.

Dr Darío Luis Banegas
Ministerio de Educación del Chubut, Argentina
Hornby Scholar 2008–2009

Key to dictionary entries

Finding the word

Information in the dictionary is given in **entries**, arranged in alphabetical order of **headwords**. **Compound words** are in separate entries, also arranged alphabetically.

headwords

- book binder** /'bukbaɪndə(r)/ *noun* a person whose job is fastening the pages of books together and putting covers on them ▶ **book binding** *noun* [U]
- book case** /'bukkeɪs/ *noun* a piece of furniture with shelves for keeping books on ▶ **VISUAL VOCAB** page V36
- book club** *noun* **1** an organization that sells books cheaply to its members **2** = BOOK GROUP

entry

Some headwords can have more than one part of speech.

Squares show where the information on each part of speech begins.

blindfold /'blaɪndfəʊld/ *noun, verb, adv.*

- noun** something that is put over sb's eyes so they cannot see
- verb** ~ **sb** to cover sb's eyes with a piece of cloth or other material so that they cannot see: *The hostages were tied up and blindfolded.*
- adv.** (BrE) (also **blindfolded** BrE, NAmE) with the eyes covered: *The reporter was taken blindfold to a secret location.* ◊ *I knew the way home blindfold* (= because it was so familiar). ◊ *I could do that blindfold* (= very easily, with no problems).

headword and all possible parts of speech

There are some words in English that have the same spelling as each other but different pronunciations.

The small **homonym number** shows that this is the first of two headwords spelled *gill*.

Different pronunciation is given at each headword.

- gill**¹ /gɪl/ *noun* [usually pl.] one of the openings on the side of a fish's head that it breathes through ▶ **VISUAL VOCAB** page V14
- ▶ **to the gills** (*informal*) until completely full: *I was stuffed to the gills with chocolate cake.*
- gill**² /dʒɪl/ *noun* a unit for measuring liquids, equal to 0.142 of a LITRE in the UK and some other countries, and 0.118 of a LITRE in the US. There are four gills in a PINT.

There are also some words in English that have more than one possible spelling, and both spellings are acceptable. Information about these words is given at the most frequent spelling.

The variant spelling is given in brackets.

- banister** (also **ban-nis-ter**) /'bænɪstə(r)/ *noun* (BrE also **banisters** [pl.]) the posts and RAIL that you can hold for support when going up or down stairs: *to hold on to the banister/banisters* ▶ picture at STAIRCASE

At the entry for the less frequent spelling a cross reference directs you to the main entry.

ban-nis-ter = BANISTER

Irregular forms of verbs are treated in the same way.

Some words that are **derivatives** of other words do not have their own entry in the dictionary because they can be easily understood from the meaning of the word from which they are derived (the root word). They are given in the same entry as the root word, in a specially marked section.

belated /bɪ'leɪtɪd/ *adj.* coming or happening late: *a belated birthday present* ▶ **be-lated-ly** *adv.*

The blue triangle shows where the derivative section starts.

You can find **idioms** and **phrasal verbs** in separate sections, marked with special symbols.

fetch /fetʃ/ verb **1** (especially BrE) to go to where sb/sth is and bring them/it back: ~sb/sth to fetch help/a doctor ◊ The inhabitants have to walk a mile to fetch water. ◊ She's gone to fetch the kids from school. ◊ ~sb sth Could you fetch me my bag? **2** ~sth to be sold for a particular price **SYN** sell: The painting is expected to fetch \$10000 at auction.

IDM fetch and carry (for sb) to do a lot of little jobs for sb as if you were their servant

PHRV fetch up (especially BrE, informal) to arrive somewhere without planning to: And then, a few years later, he somehow fetched up in Rome.

Idioms section with symbol **IDM** (see page R13)

phrasal verbs section with symbol **PHRV** (see pages R8–9)

Wordfinder notes help you to find words that you don't know or have forgotten. They suggest entries that you can look up to find vocabulary related to the headword. For example, you will find this Wordfinder note at the entry for **home**.

WORDFINDER accommodation, deed, house, lease, let, location, mortgage, squat, tenant

Finding the meaning

Some words have very long entries. It is not usually necessary to read the whole entry from the beginning if you already know something about the general meaning that you are looking for.

spin ʒ+ **CI** /spɪn/ verb, noun

• **verb** (spinning, spun, spun /span/)

• **TURN ROUND QUICKLY** **1** ʒ+ **CI** [I, T] to turn round and round quickly; to make sth do this: (+ **adv./prep.**) The plane was spinning out of control. ◊ a spinning ice skater ◊ My head is spinning (= I feel as if my head is going round and I can't balance). ◊ ~round/around The dancers spun round and round. ◊ ~sth (round/around) to spin a ball/coin/wheel **2** ʒ+ **CI** [I, T] ~ (sb) round/around | + **adv./prep.** to turn round quickly once; to make sb do this: He spun around to face her.

• **MAKE THREAD** **3** [I, T] to make **THREAD** from wool, cotton, silk, etc. by **TWISTING** it: She sat by the window spinning. ◊ ~sth to spin and knit wool ◊ ~A into B spinning silk into thread ◊ ~B from A spinning thread from silk

Shortcuts show the context or general meaning.

Meanings that are closely related share the same shortcut.

Understanding and using the word

Words printed in larger type and with a **1** symbol are part of the **Oxford 3000** list of important words (see page x). The **CI** tells you the CEFR level of the word. Small keys indicate which parts of the entry are most important.

Words with a **ʒ+** symbol are part of the **Oxford 5000** list of important words (see page x).

ability **1** **A2** **CI** /ə'biləti/ noun (pl. **abilities**) **1** **CI** [sing.] ~to do sth the fact that sb/sth is able to do sth: People with the disease may lose their ability to communicate. ◊ This program has the ability to adapt to its user. ◊ Students must demonstrate the ability to understand simple texts.

Words from the **Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)** written and spoken word lists are marked with **CI** (see page xi).

absent ʒ+ **CI** **W** adj., verb, prep.

• **adj.** /'æbsənt/ **1** ʒ+ **CI** ~ (from ...) not in a place because of illness, etc.: to be absent from work **OPP** present **2** ʒ+ **CI** ~ (from sth) not present in sth: Love was totally absent from his childhood. **OPP** present **3** showing that you are not really looking at or thinking about what is happening around you: an absent expression ◊ see also **ABSENTLY**

Words from the **OPAL** written word list are marked with **W** (see page xi).

Words from the **OPAL** spoken word list are marked with **S** (see page xi).

actually **1** **A2** **S** /æktʃuəli/ adv. **1** **CI** used in speaking to emphasize a fact or a comment, or that sth is really true: What did she actually say? ◊ It's not actually raining now. ◊ The book was never actually published.

Stress marks show stress on compounds.

baby 'grand *noun* a small GRAND PIANO

Irregular forms of verbs, with their pronunciations. Irregular plurals of nouns are also shown.

examples of use in *italic type*

cling ʅ+ ʅ /klɪŋ/ *verb* (**clung**, **clung** /klʌŋ/) 1 ʅ+ ʅ [I] to hold on tightly to sb/sth: ~ **to sb/sth** survivors clinging to a raft ◊ ~ **on to sb/sth** She **clung on to her baby**. ◊ ~ **on** Cling on tight! ◊ ~ **together** They **clung together**, shivering with cold. ◊ **SYNONYMS** at HOLD 2 ʅ+ ʅ [I] to stick to sth: a dress that **clings** (= fits closely and shows the shape of your body) ◊ ~ **to sth** The wet shirt **clung to his chest**. ◊ The smell of smoke still **clung to her clothes**. 3 ʅ+ ʅ [I] ~ (**to sb**) (usually disapproving) to stay close to sb, especially because you need them emotionally: After her mother's death, Sara **clung to her aunt more than ever**.

prepositions, adverbs and structures that can be used with this word

verb code (see pages R4–7)

label giving information about usage (see inside front cover)

comparatives and superlatives of adjectives

hearty /'ha:ti; NAmE 'hɑ:ti/ *adj., noun*
■ **adj.** (**heartier**, **heartiest**) 1 [usually before noun] showing friendly feelings for sb: a **hearty welcome** 2 (sometimes disapproving) loud, cheerful and full of energy: a **hearty and boisterous fellow** ◊ a **hearty voice** 3 [only before noun]

pronunciation, with American pronunciation where it is different (see pages R30–31).

information on use of adjectives (see page R11)

word used in definition that is not in the Oxford 3000

information on different types of noun (see pages R10–11)

bag ʅ A1 /bæg/ *noun, verb*

■ **noun**

• **CONTAINER** 1 ʅ A1 [C] (often in compounds) a container made of cloth, leather, plastic or paper, used to carry things in, especially when shopping or travelling: He was carrying a heavy **bag of groceries**. ◊ It was wrapped in a brown **paper bag**. ◊ Put it in a black **plastic garbage bag**. ◊ She tipped out the contents of her **bag** (= **HANDBAG**). 2 ʅ A1 [C] a bag or case that you take when you are travelling; a piece of **LUGGAGE**: I **packed my bags** and left for the airport. ◊ Each **passenger** is allowed one **carry-on bag**. 3 see also **DUFFEL BAG**, **SPONGE BAG**, **TOILET BAG** 3 **VISUAL VOCAB** page V20

• **AMOUNT** 3 [C] ~ (**of sth**) the amount contained in a bag: She ate a **bag of chips**. 3 see also **GRAB BAG**, **MIXED BAG**, **RAGBAG** 3 **VISUAL VOCAB** page V47 4 **bags** [U, pl.] ~ (**of sth**) (BrE, informal) a large amount or a large number of sth: Get in! There's **bags of room**.

common phrase in bold type in example (see page R12)

fixed form of noun

Build your vocabulary

The dictionary also contains a lot of information that will help you increase your vocabulary and use the language productively.

Language banks and **Synonyms** notes give useful vocabulary, especially for writing, and **Express yourself** notes help you find the right words in everyday situations.

▼ EXPRESS YOURSELF

Offering somebody something

Particularly when you are the host, you may want to make polite offers to your guests:

- **Would you like a magazine to read?**
- **Can I get you a coffee?**
- **Can I offer you something to drink?**

child-ish /'tʃaɪdɪʃ/ *adj.* 1 connected with or typical of a child: **childish handwriting** 2 (disapproving) (of an adult) behaving in a stupid or silly way **SYD** **immature**: Don't be so **childish!** **OPP** **mature** 3 compare **CHILDLIKE** • **child-ishly** *adv.*: to behave **childishly** **child-ishness** *noun* [U]

Special symbols show synonyms and opposites

Cross references refer you to information in other parts of the dictionary, for example words that sometimes get confused with the word at this entry.

The Oxford 3000™ and Oxford 5000™

What is the Oxford 3000?

The **Oxford 3000** is a list of the 3,000 core words that every learner of English needs to know. The words have been carefully selected based on their frequency in the language and their relevance to learners. Every word has been assigned a level, from A1 to B2 on the CEFR, guiding learners from beginner to upper-intermediate level on the most important words to learn.

The **frequency** of the words was measured in the Oxford English Corpus (OEC). A corpus is an electronic database containing large numbers of written or spoken texts that can be searched, sorted and analysed. The OEC contains over 2 billion words from different subject areas and contexts, covering British, American and world English. Frequency is the most important criterion for deciding the importance of a word: the most frequent 2,000 words in English make up around 80 per cent of almost any English text.

The **relevance** of the words to English language learners was measured by their frequency in a specially created corpus of Secondary and Adult English courses published by Oxford University Press. This means that the list covers words that learners will come across in class and in their study texts, even if they are less frequent in a general corpus. These include, for example, words for everyday things and places (*banana, cafe, T-shirt*), words for describing feelings (*amazed, annoyed, unhappy*) and words connected with studying (*dictionary, exam*).

What is the CEFR?

CEFR stands for the 'Common European Framework of Reference' for languages, which is a description of the language abilities of students at different levels of learning. The CEFR can be used to compare standards in language learning and create teaching programmes.

It grades language skills at six levels:

- A1 and A2 indicate elementary and pre-intermediate levels of ability.
- B1 and B2 indicate lower- and upper-intermediate levels.
- C1 indicates advanced level.
- C2 indicates complete proficiency in the language.

The CEFR grades language skills – what students can do in the language, for example 'can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics' (at B2). It does not grade specific grammar points or vocabulary items. However, we have aligned the words in the Oxford 3000 to the levels of the CEFR from A1 to B2 in order to guide learners of

English on the most important words to learn at each level. These levels are based on the same criteria of frequency and relevance: the corpus of Secondary and Adult English courses enabled us to track the frequency of vocabulary items at each level of a course.

What is the Oxford 5000?

The Oxford 3000 is the core word list for learners up to B2/upper-intermediate level. The **Oxford 5000** is an expanded core word list for advanced learners of English. It includes an additional 2,000 words at B2-C1 level on the CEFR, guiding advanced learners on the most useful high-level words to learn to expand their vocabulary.

Keywords in the dictionary

The words of the **Oxford 3000** are shown in the main section of the dictionary in larger print and with a key symbol **K** immediately following. The CEFR level for the core sense of the word is shown after the key. If the word has more than one meaning, a small key symbol **k** will indicate each of the meanings that belong to the Oxford 3000. The CEFR level is shown for each of these meanings: some of the secondary meanings may have a higher level than the core sense.

The words of the **Oxford 5000** are shown in the main section of the dictionary with a 'key plus' symbol **K+** and the CEFR level – B2 or C1 – for the core sense of the word. Again, if there is more than one meaning, there will be a key plus symbol and a CEFR level at each meaning that belongs to the Oxford 5000.

In order to make the definitions in this dictionary easy to understand, we have written them using the keywords of the Oxford 3000. Numbers and proper names are also used in definitions, as are a few language study terms, such as *alphabet, noun* and *tense*. When it has been necessary to use a specialist term that is not in the Oxford 3000, the word is shown in SMALL CAPITALS. Where appropriate, a GLOSS (= a short explanation of the meaning) of the specialist term is included in brackets.

The entries for all words in the Oxford 3000 have been re-edited for this edition, using the most up-to-date corpora. Many of these entries have been expanded in order to include more information about the most frequent collocations and examples of different grammatical patterns used with these words.

For more information on the Oxford 3000 and Oxford 5000, and to see the full lists, visit

www.oxford3000.com.

The Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon™

What is OPAL?

The English spoken by a professor in a lecture hall is different from the English written in an academic paper – and both are different from everyday conversation between friends, or the language used in popular fiction. If you are a student of English for Academic Purposes (EAP), it is important to become familiar with the vocabulary that you will come across when attending lectures and seminars, and that you will need for writing essays and reports.

The **Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon**, or **OPAL** for short, is a collection of four word lists that together provide an essential guide to the most important words to know in the field of EAP. The four lists cover both written and spoken academic English, with lists of written words, spoken words, written phrases and spoken phrases.

The words and phrases in OPAL are based on two main corpora, to give learners a true picture of academic English. The written words and phrases are based on the 71-million-word Oxford Corpus of Academic English (OCAE), a corpus composed of academic texts published by Oxford University Press across these four subject areas: physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. The spoken words and phrases are based on the British Academic Spoken English (BASE) corpus¹. This corpus was developed at the Universities of Warwick and Reading and contains nearly 1.2 million words of spoken academic English, recorded and transcribed from lectures and seminars across the same four subject areas.

OPAL was developed using a method called 'keyword analysis'. By comparing the list of the most frequent words and phrases in each corpus with the list of the most frequent words and phrases in a contrasting reference corpus, we identified the words and phrases that are most important in an academic setting. For the written lists, we compared the OCAE with the fiction subcorpus of the Oxford English Corpus. For the spoken lists, we compared the BASE corpus with the spoken subcorpus of the British National Corpus, containing recordings of meetings and everyday conversation.

OPAL in the dictionary and online

Words that belong to the OPAL written and spoken word lists are indicated in the dictionary by symbols next to the headword: **W** indicates a word on the OPAL written word list; **S** indicates a word on the OPAL spoken word list; and **WS** indicates a word on both the written and spoken word lists.

To see the full lists, visit www.opalwordlist.com. The written word list is divided into 12 sublists of 100 words each and the spoken word list is divided into 6 sublists of 100 words each. Sublist 1 of each list contains the most important academic words, with the next most important in Sublist 2, and so on.

It is often not the word itself that is 'academic', but the way it is used and combined with other words in an academic context. Therefore, besides the lists of single words, OPAL also includes a list of written phrases and a list of spoken phrases, which you can also find online. The phrase lists are grouped into academic functions. The written phrase list covers 15 different functions, including 'Explaining and defining' and 'Giving examples and presenting evidence'. The spoken phrase list covers 16 functions, including 'Signposting and focusing in lectures/lessons' and 'Using vague language'.

Whether you are using the print dictionary or accessing OPAL online (from which you can click through to the dictionary entries, either in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* online or in the *Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English*), it is important to realize that learning a word involves more than just knowing its basic meaning. Some words may have specific meanings in particular contexts: for example, the word *environment* (in Sublist 1 of the written list and Sublist 2 of the spoken list) may have a slightly different meaning, depending on whether the area of study is ecology, social science or computing. The dictionary entry will guide you on all the different meanings and also how to use them in context, with examples of use, frequent collocations and patterns with grammatical structures or prepositions.

1 OPAL has been created with reference to the following corpora: the Oxford Corpus of Academic English (OCAE), the fiction subcorpus of the Oxford English Corpus (OEC), the spoken element of the British National Corpus (BNC) and a subset of the British Academic Spoken English (BASE) corpus, developed within the University of Warwick and for which relevant permissions have been obtained. BASE was developed at the Universities of Warwick and Reading under the directorship of Hilary Nesi and Paul Thompson. Corpus development of BASE was assisted by funding from BALEAP, EURALEX, the British Academy and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Numbers



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- 10 000-foot view** /ten θəʊznd fʊt 'vjuː/ *noun* (business) a broad general view or description of a problem **SYD** HELICOPTER VIEW, OVERVIEW: *Let me give you the 10000-foot view.*
- 101** /wən əʊ 'wʌn/ *adj.* (NAMÉ) **1** relating to a university course that is intended as an introduction to a subject for people who have never studied it before: *a 101 class* **2** (informal) relating to the basic facts in a particular field or subject: *a social media marketing 101 guide*
- 1040 form** /ten 'fɔːti fɔːm; NAMÉ 'fɔːrti fɔːrm/ *noun* (in the US) an official document in which you give details of the amount of money that you have earned so that the government can calculate how much tax you have to pay
- 12** /twelv/ *noun* (in the UK) a label that is given to a film to show that it can be watched legally in a cinema only by people who are at least twelve years old; a film that has this label: *Kids can watch this too – it's a 12.*
- 15** /fif'tiːn/ *noun* (in the UK) a label that is given to a film to show that it can be watched legally in a cinema only by people who are at least fifteen years old; a film that has this label
- 18** /eɪ'tiːn/ *noun* (in the UK) a label that is given to a film to show that it can be watched legally in a cinema only by people who are at least eighteen years old; a film that has this label
- 18-wheeler** /eɪtɪn 'wi:lə(r)/ *noun* (NAMÉ) a very large truck with nine wheels on each side
- 2%** /tuː pə'sent; NAMÉ pər'sent/ *noun* (NAMÉ) milk that has had the fat removed, and then some of the fat returned, so that it contains two per cent milk fat: *Shall I get skim milk or 2%?*
- 20/20 vision** /twenti 'twenti 'vɪʒn/ *noun* the ability to see with the CLARITY of a normal, healthy, young adult human
- 2.1** /tuː 'wʌn/ *noun* the upper level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university: *I got a 2.1*
- 2.2** /tuː 'tuː/ *noun* the lower level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university
- 24-hour clock** /twenti fɔːr əʊə 'klɒk; NAMÉ əʊər 'klɔːk/ *noun* the system of using twenty-four numbers to talk about the hours of the day, instead of dividing it into two units of twelve hours
- 24/7** (also **twenty-four seven**) /twenti fɔː 'sevən; NAMÉ fɔːr/ *adv.* (informal) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (used to mean 'all the time'): *He's on duty 24/7.*
- 360-degree feedback** /θriː hʌndrəd ən sɪksti dɪgriː 'fiːdbæk/ (also **360-degree appraisal**) *noun* [U] (business) information provided by all the people that an employee deals with, used as a way of deciding how well the employee does their job: *360-degree feedback assessments*
- 3D** (also **three-D**) /θriː 'diː/ *noun* [U] the quality of having, or appearing to have, length, WIDTH and depth (= three DIMENSIONS): *These glasses allow you to see the film in 3D.*
- 3D printer** /θriː diː 'prɪntə(r)/ *noun* a machine that makes solid objects from a digital file by adding more and more layers of a material until the object is complete: *The car's entire body, seats and windshield are printed by a 3D printer and are made out of carbon fibre and plastic.*
- 3PS** /θriː piː 'es/ = **THIRD-PERSON SHOOTER GAME** (= a type of video game in which the player controls the action of a character on the screen and has to attack enemies)
- 404** /fɔːr əʊ 'fɔː; NAMÉ 'fɔːr/ *noun* (computing) a ۱۱۱۱۰۰۰۰۰۰۰ that appears on a computer screen that tells you that an internet address cannot be found
- 401(k)** /fɔːr əʊ wʌn 'keɪ/ *noun* (in the US) an account in which an employee can save money for their RETIREMENT without paying tax until the money is taken out: *Does your employer have a 401(k) plan?*
- 411** /fɔː wʌn 'wʌn; NAMÉ 'fɔːr/ *noun* **1** [U] the phone number of the service that you use in the US to find out a person's phone number: *Call 411.* **2** (the 411) [sing.] (NAMÉ, informal) the true facts about a situation or the information you need: *He'll give us the 411 on what to expect.*
- 4G** /fɔː 'dʒiː; NAMÉ 'fɔːr/ *abbr.* **FOURTH GENERATION** (used to describe technology that has been developed to send data to mobile phones, etc. at higher speeds than **THIRD-GENERATION** devices): *a 4G phone*
- 4x4** (also **four-by-four**) /'fɔː bɑː fɔː(r); NAMÉ 'fɔːr bɑː fɔːr/ *noun* a vehicle with **FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE** (= a system in which power is given to all four wheels)
- 50-yard line** /fɪfti 'jɑːd laɪn; NAMÉ 'jɑːrd/ *noun* [sing.] the line that marks the middle of the field in **AMERICAN FOOTBALL**: *Try to get tickets near the 50-yard line.*
- 5G** /faɪv 'dʒiː/ *abbr.* **FIFTH-GENERATION** (used to describe technology that has been developed to send data to mobile phones, etc. at higher speeds than **FOURTH-GENERATION** devices): *5G technology can achieve connection speeds 30–50 times faster than 4G.*
- 5 o'clock shadow** /faɪv ə 'klɒk 'ʃædəʊ; NAMÉ ə 'klɑːk/ *noun* [sing.] the dark colour that appears on the CHIN and sides of a man's face when the hair has grown a little during the day since he SHAVED in the morning
- 7/7** /sev'n 'sev'n/ *noun* (BrE) the abbreviation for the date 7 July, 2005, when several bomb attacks took place in London: *a survivor of the 7/7 bombings*
- 800 number** /eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə(r)/ *noun* a phone number, in the US and some other countries, beginning with 800, or with some other numbers starting with 8 such as 888, which can be called free of charge. These numbers are provided by companies so that customers can phone them to order their products, etc. In the UK such free numbers begin with 0800 or 0808.
- 900 number** /naɪn 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə(r)/ *noun* (in the US) a phone number that begins with 900. A call to it is more expensive than those to ordinary numbers, and part of the charge for the call goes to the business being called. 900 numbers are used by companies who have CHATLINES, operate competitions, offer services, etc.
- 9/11** /naɪn 'lev'n/ *noun* the abbreviation for the date September 11, 2001, when **TERRORISTS** flew planes into the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania, killing thousands of people
- 911** /naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ the phone number used in the US to call the police, fire or **AMBULANCE** services in an emergency: *Call 911.*
- 99** /naɪn'taɪn/ *noun* (BrE) an ice cream in a **CONE** with a stick of chocolate in the top
- 999** /naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ the phone number used in the UK to call the police, fire or **AMBULANCE** services in an emergency: *Dial 999.*

abbreviate

2

abbreviate /ə'brɪ:vɪət/ verb [usually passive] to make a word, phrase, name or text shorter, especially by leaving out letters or using only the first letter of each word
SYN shorten: (be) abbreviated (to sth) the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (usually abbreviated to JPL) ▶ **abbreviated** adj.: Where appropriate, abbreviated forms are used.

abbreviation /ə'brɪ:vɪ'eɪʃn/ noun [C] ~ (of/for sth) a short form of a word, etc: What's the abbreviation for 'Saint'? 2 [U] the process of abbreviating sth

ABC /ˌeɪ bi: 'si:/ noun, abbr.

● **noun** [sing.] (BrE) (NAMe also **ABCs** [pl.], **ABC's** [pl.]) 1 all the letters of the alphabet, especially as they are learnt by children: Do you know your ABC? 2 the basic facts about a subject: the ABC of gardening **TOPIC** see EASY adj.

● **abbr.** 1 American Broadcasting Company (a large national American television company) 2 Australian Broadcasting Corporation (the Australian national public broadcasting company)

abdicate /æ'bɪdɪkeɪt/ verb [I, T] to give up the position of being king, queen or emperor: He abdicated in favour of his son. ◊ ~sth She was forced to abdicate the throne of Spain. ◊ **WORDFINDER** NOTE at KING 2 [T] ~responsibility/your responsibilities to fail or refuse to perform a duty ▶ **abdication** /æ'bɪdɪkeɪʃn/ noun [U, C]

abdomen /'æbdəmən/ noun 1 the part of the body below the chest that contains the stomach, bowels, etc. 2 the end part of an insect's body that is attached to its thorax
 ◊ **VISUAL VOCAB** page V15

abdominal /æb'dɒmɪnəl/ NAMe -'dɑ:m-/ adj., noun

● **adj.** [only before noun] (anatomy) relating to or connected with the abdomen: abdominal pains

● **noun** **abdominals** (also informal **abs**) [pl.] the muscles of the abdomen

abduct /æb'dʌkt/ verb ~sb to take sb away illegally, especially using force **SYN** kidnap ▶ **abduction** /-dʌkʃn/ noun [U, C]

abductee /æb'dʌk'ti:/ noun a person who has been abducted

abductor /æb'dʌktə(r)/ noun 1 a person who abducts sb 2 (also **abductor muscle**) (anatomy) a muscle that moves a body part away from the middle of the body or from another part ◊ compare ADDUCTOR

abed /ə'bed/ adv. (old use) in bed

Aberdonian /æbədə'ni:ən/ NAMe -'æbəd-/ noun a person from Aberdeen in Scotland ▶ **Aberdonian** adj.

aberrant /ə'berənt/ adj. (formal) not usual or not socially acceptable: aberrant behaviour

aberration /æbə'reɪʃn/ noun [C, U] (formal) a fact, an action or a way of behaving that is not usual, and that may be unacceptable

abet /ə'bet/ verb (-tt-) ~sb to help or encourage sb to do sth wrong: He was abetted in the deception by his wife. **TOPIC** see AID V.

abeyance /ə'beɪəns/ noun [U]

TOPIC in **abeyance** (formal) not being used, or being stopped for a period of time

ABH /ˌeɪ bi: 'eitʃ/ abbr. (BrE, law) ACTUAL BODILY HARM.

abhor /əb'hɔ:(r)/ verb (not used in the progressive tenses) (-rr-) ~sth (formal) to hate sth, for example a way of behaving or thinking, especially for moral reasons **SYN** detest, loathe

abhorrence /əb'hɔ:rəns/ NAMe -'hɔ:r-/ noun [U, sing.] (formal) a strong feeling of hating sb/sth, especially for moral reasons

abhorrent /əb'hɔ:rənt/ NAMe -'hɔ:r-/ adj. ~ (to sb) (formal) causing a strong feeling of hate, especially for moral reasons **SYN** repugnant: Racism is abhorrent to a civilized society.

abide /ə'baɪd/ verb (**abided**, **abided**) **USE** In sense 2 **abode** /ə'baʊd/ is also used for the past tense and past participle. 1 [T] **cannot/could not abide sb/sth** to dislike sb/sth so much that you hate having to be with or deal with them

SYN bear, stand: I can't abide people with no humour. ◊ He couldn't abide the thought of being up in an office. 2 (also **hide**) [I] + adv./prep. (formal) to stay or live in a place: May joy and peace be in us all.

TOPIC 2 **abide by sth** (formal) to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc: You'll have to abide by the rules of the club. ◊ We will abide by their decision. ◊ **WORDFINDER** NOTE at LAW

abiding /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ adj. (formal) (of a feeling or belief) lasting for a long time and not changing ◊ see also LAW-ABIDING

ability /ə'bɪləti/ noun (pl. **abilities**) 1 [sing.] ~to do sth the fact that sb/sth is able to do sth: People with the disease may lose their ability to communicate. ◊ This program has the ability to adapt to its user. ◊ Students must demonstrate the ability to understand simple texts. **OPP** inability 2 [C] (U, C) a level of skill or intelligence: Their athletic ability is stunning. ◊ A woman of her ability will easily find a job. ◊ students of mixed abilities ◊ I try to do my job to the best of my ability (= as well as I can).

abiotic /aɪ'biɔ:tɪk/ NAMe -'aɪ-/ adj. (specialist) not involving biology or living things: abiotic processes

abject /æb'dʒekt/ adj. [usually before noun] (formal) 1 terrible and without hope: abject poverty/misery/failure 2 without any respect for yourself: an abject apology ▶ **abjectly** adv.

abjure /əb'dʒʊə(r)/ NAMe -'dʒʊr/ verb ~sth (formal) to promise publicly that you will give up or reject a belief or a way of behaving **SYN** renounce

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ adj. [not before noun] 1 burning quickly and strongly: The whole building was soon ablaze. ◊ Cars and buses were set ablaze during the riot. 2 full of bright light or colours: There were lights still ablaze as they drove up to the house. ◊ ~with sth The trees were ablaze with the colours of autumn. 3 ~ (with sth) full of strong emotion or excitement: He turned to her, his eyes ablaze with anger.

able /eɪ'bl/ adj.

1 **able** ~to do sth (used as a modal verb) to have the skill, intelligence, opportunity, etc. needed to do sth: You must be able to speak French for this job. ◊ A viral illness left her barely able to walk. ◊ We're still able to get visas to come and go from Thailand. ◊ I didn't feel able to disagree with him. **OPP** unable ◊ note at CAN 1 2 (**abler** /-blə(r)/, **ablest** /-blɪst/) intelligent; good at sth: the ablest student in the class ◊ We aim to help the less able in society to lead an independent life. ◊ see also ABLY

-able, -ible /əbl/ suffix (in adjectives) 1 that can or must be: calculable ◊ taxable 2 having the quality of: fashionable ◊ comfortable ◊ changeable ▶ **-ability, -ibility** /əbɪləti/ (in nouns): capability ◊ responsibility **-ably, -ibly** /əbli/ (in adverbs): noticeably ◊ incredibly

able-bodied adj. physically healthy, fit and strong in contrast to sb who is weak or DISABLED

able seaman noun a sailor of lower rank in the British NAVY

abluitions /ə'blu:ʃnz/ noun [pl.] (formal or humorous) the act of washing yourself

ably /eɪ'blɪ/ adv. well and with skill: We were ably assisted by a team of volunteers. ◊ see also ABLE (2)

ABM /ˌeɪ bi: 'em/ noun (CanE) a machine in or outside a bank, shop, etc., from which you can get money from your bank account using a special plastic card (the abbreviation for 'automated banking machine') **SYN** cash machine

abnormal /əb'nɔ:məl/ NAMe -'nɔ:rməl/ adj. different from what is usual or expected, especially in a way that worries sb or is harmful or not wanted: abnormal levels of sugar in the blood ◊ They thought his behaviour was abnormal. **OPP** normal ▶ **abnormality** /-məli/ adv.: abnormally high blood pressure

absentee ballot (NAme) (BrE postal vote) *noun* a vote in an election that you can send when you cannot be present

absenteeism /ˌæbsənˈtiːzəm/ *noun* [U] the fact of being frequently away from work or school, especially without good reasons

absentee landlord *noun* a person who rents their property to sb, but does not live in it and rarely visits it

ab-sen-ti-a ◊ IN ABSENTIA

ab-sen-tly /ˌæbsənˈtli/ *adv* in a way that shows you are not looking at or thinking about what is happening around you: *He nodded absently, his attention absorbed by the screen.*

absent-minded *adj* tending to forget things, perhaps because you are not thinking about what is around you, but about sth else **SYN** forgetful ▶ **absent-mindedly** *adv* **absent-minded-ness** *noun* [U]

ab-sin-the /ˌæbsɪnθ/ *noun* [U, C] a very strong green alcoholic drink that tastes of ANISEED

ab-so-lute ① ② ③ /æbsəluːt/ *adj., noun*

adj. 1 ① total and complete: a class for absolute beginners ◊ 'You're wrong,' she said with absolute certainty. ◊ Clean water is an absolute necessity. 2 ② [only before noun] used, especially in spoken English, to give emphasis to what you are saying: We must keep costs to an absolute minimum. ◊ This room is an absolute disgrace. ◊ They're talking absolute nonsense. 3 definite and without any doubt: There was no absolute proof. ◊ He taught us that the laws of physics were absolute. ◊ The story offers no clear message, no absolute truth. 4 (of a legal decision) final: The divorce became absolute last week. ◊ see also DECREE ABSOLUTE 5 not limited in any way: absolute power/authority ◊ an absolute ruler/monarchy (= one with no limit to their power) 6 existing or measured independently and not in relation to sth else: Although prices are falling in absolute terms, energy is still expensive. ◊ Beauty cannot be measured by any absolute standard. ◊ compare RELATIVE

noun an idea or a principle that is believed to be true or relevant in any circumstances: Right and wrong are, for her, moral absolutes.

ab-so-lute-ly ① ② /æbsəluːtli/ *adv* 1 ① used to emphasize that sth is completely true: You're absolutely right. ◊ He made it absolutely clear. ◊ absolutely certain/sure ◊ absolutely necessary/essential/vital ◊ The place was absolutely packed. 2 ① absolutely no ◊ absolutely nothing used to emphasize sth negative: There's absolutely nothing more the doctors can do. 3 ② used with adjectives or verbs that express strong feelings or extreme qualities to mean 'extremely': absolutely delighted/thrilled ◊ We were absolutely devastated at the news. ◊ I absolutely love strawberries. ◊ absolutely fantastic/amazing ◊ He's an absolutely brilliant cook. 4 ① ② /æbsəluːtli/ used to emphasize that you agree with sb, or to give sb permission to do sth: They could have told us, couldn't they? 'Absolutely!' ◊ 'Can we leave a little early?' 'Absolutely!' 5 ① ② absolutely not used to emphasize that you strongly disagree with sb, or to refuse permission: 'Was it any good?' 'No, absolutely not.' 6 not considered in relation to other things: White-collar crime increased both absolutely and in comparison with other categories.

absolute ma'jority *noun* more than half of the total number of votes or winning candidates

absolute zero *noun* [U] the lowest temperature that is thought to be possible

ab-so-lu-tion /æbsəluːʃn/ *noun* [U, C] (especially in the Christian Church) a formal statement that a person is forgiven for what he or she has done wrong

ab-so-lu-tism /ˌæbsəluːtɪzəm/ *noun* [U] 1 a political system in which a leader or government has total power at all times 2 belief in a political, religious or moral principle that is thought to be true in all circumstances ▶ **ab-so-lu-tist** /-tɪst/ *noun, adj.*

ab-solve /əbˈzɒlv/; NAme -ˈzɑːlv/ *verb* (formal) 1 ~sb (of/ from sth) to state formally that sb is not guilty or respon-

sible for sth: The court absolved him of all responsibility the accident. 2 ~sb (from/of sth) (of a priest) to absolution to sb: I absolve you from all your sins.

ab-sorb ① ② /əbˈzɔːb/; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪ/ *verb*

LIQUID/GAS 1 ① ② to take in a liquid, gas or other substance from the surface or space around: ~sth Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air. ◊ ~sth into sth The cream is easily absorbed into the skin. ◊ **WORDFINDER NOTE** at LIQUID

HEAT/LIGHT/ENERGY/SOUND 2 ① ② ~sth to take in and keep heat, light, energy, sound, etc. instead of reflecting it: Black walls absorb a lot of heat during the day.

SHOCK/IMPACT 3 ① ② ~sth to reduce the effect of a physical impact or movement: This tennis racket absorbs shock on impact. ◊ see also SHOCK ABSORBER

INFORMATION 4 ① ② ~sth to take sth into the mind and learn or understand it **SYN** take in: It's a lot of information to absorb all at once.

INTEREST SB 5 ① ② ~sb to interest sb very much so that they pay no attention to anything else **SYN** engross: This work had absorbed him for several years.

MAKE PART OF STH LARGER 6 ① ② [often passive] to make sth smaller become part of sth larger: ~sth The country simply cannot absorb this influx of refugees. ◊ be absorbed into sth The surrounding small towns have been absorbed into the city.

MONEY/TIME/CHANGES 7 ~sth to use up a large supply of sth, especially money or time: The new proposals would absorb \$80 billion of the federal budget. 8 ~sth to deal with changes, effects, costs, etc.: The company is unable to absorb such huge losses.

ab-sor-bance /əbˈzɔːbəns; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪ-/ *noun* [U, C] (physics) the ability of a substance to absorb light

ab-sor-bed /əbˈzɔːbd/; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪd/ *adj.* [not usually before noun] ~in sth/sb very interested in sth/sb so that you are not paying attention to anything else: She seemed totally absorbed in her book.

ab-sor-bent /əbˈzɔːbənt; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪ-/ *adj.* able to take in sth easily, especially liquid: absorbent paper/materials ▶ **ab-sor-bency** /-bən-si/ *noun* [U]

ab-sor-bing /əbˈzɔːbɪŋ; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪ-/ *adj.* interesting and fun and holding your attention completely: an absorbing book/game ◊ **SYNONYMS** at INTERESTING

ab-sorp-tion /əbˈzɔːpʃn; NAme -ˈzɔːrɪ-/ *noun* [U] 1 the process of a liquid, gas or other substance being taken in: Vitamin D is necessary to aid the absorption of calcium from food. 2 ~ (of sb/sth) (into sth) the process of a smaller group, country, etc. becoming part of a larger group or country: the absorption of immigrants into the host country 3 ~ (in sth) the fact of sb being very interested in sth so that it takes all their attention: His work suffered because of his total absorption in sport.

ab-stain /əbˈsteɪn/ *verb* [I] 1 ~ (from sth) to choose not to use a vote, either in favour of or against sth: Ten people voted in favour, five against and two abstained. 2 ~ (from sth) to decide not to do or have sth, especially sth you like or enjoy, because it is bad for your health or considered morally wrong: to abstain from alcohol/sex/drugs 3 ~ (from sth) (IndE) to stay away from sth: The workers who abstained from work yesterday have been suspended. ◊ see also ABSTENTION, ABSTINENCE

ab-stain-or /əbˈsteɪnə(r)/ *noun* 1 a person who chooses not to vote either in favour of or against sth 2 a person who abstains from sth, especially alcohol

ab-ste-mi-ous /əbˈstiːmiəs/ *adj.* (formal) not allowing yourself to have much food or alcohol, or to do things that are fun

ab-sten-tion /əbˈstɛnʃn/ *noun* 1 [C, U] ~ (from sth) an act of choosing not to use a vote either in favour of or against sth: The voting was 15 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions. 2 [U] ~ (from sth) (formal) the act of not allowing yourself to have or do sth fun or sth that is considered bad ◊ see also ABSTAIN

abstinence

6

abstinence /'æbstɪnəns/ *noun* [U] ~ (from sth) (formal) the practice of not allowing yourself sth, especially food, alcoholic drinks or sex, for moral, religious or health reasons: *total abstinence from strong drink* ▶ see also ABSTAIN

abstinent /'æbstɪnənt/ *adj.* (formal) not allowing yourself sth, especially alcoholic drinks, for moral, religious or health reasons

abstract 1 2 3 *adj., noun, verb*

adj. /'æbstrækt/ 1 2 3 based on general ideas and not on any particular real person, thing or situation: *abstract knowledge/principles* ◊ *The research shows that pre-school children are capable of thinking in abstract terms.* ◊ compare CONCRETE 2 2 3 existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical reality: *We may talk of beautiful things but beauty itself is abstract.* 3 (of art) not representing people or things in a realistic way, but expressing the artist's ideas about them ◊ compare FIGURATIVE (2), REPRESENTATIONAL ▶ **abstractly** *adv.*

noun /'æbstrækt/ 1 an abstract work of art 2 a short piece of writing containing the main ideas in a document **SYD** summary

in the abstract in a general way, without referring to a particular real person, thing or situation

verb /'æbstrækt/ 1 ~sth (from sth) to remove sth from somewhere: *She abstracted the main points from the argument.* 2 ~sth (specialist) to make a written summary of a book, etc.

abstracted /'æbstræktɪd/ *adj.* (formal) thinking deeply about sth and not paying attention to what is around you ▶ **abstractedly** *adv.*

abstract expressionism *noun* [U] a style and movement in abstract art that developed in New York in the middle of the 20th century and tries to express the feelings of the artist rather than showing a physical object ▶ **abstract expressionist** *noun*: abstract expressionists like Jackson Pollock **abstract expressionist** *adj.* [usually before noun]: abstract expressionist art

abstraction /'æbstrækʃn/ *noun* 1 [C, U] (formal) a general idea not based on any particular real person, thing or situation; the quality of being abstract 2 [U] (formal) the state of thinking deeply about sth and not paying attention to what is around you 3 [U, C] the action of removing sth from sth else; the process of being removed from sth else: *water abstraction from rivers*

abstract noun *noun* (grammar) a noun, for example *goodness* or *freedom*, that refers to an idea or a general quality, not to a physical object ◊ compare COMMON NOUN, PROPER NOUN

abstruse /'æbstru:s/ *adj.* (formal, often disapproving) difficult to understand: *an abstruse argument*

absurd 1 2 3 /'æb'sɜ:d/; NAmE -'sɜ:rd/ *adj.* 1 2 3 extremely silly; not logical and sensible **SYD** ridiculous: *That uniform makes the guards look absurd.* ◊ *Of course it's not true, what an absurd idea.* 2 2 3 **the absurd** *noun* [sing.] things that are or that seem to be absurd: *He has a good sense of the absurd.* ▶ **absurdity** *noun* [U, C] (pl. -ies): *It was only later that she could see the absurdity of the situation.* **absurdly** *adv.* **SYD** ridiculously: *The paintings were sold for absurdly high prices.*

abundance 1 2 3 /'æbʌndəns/ *noun* [sing., U] ~ (of sth) (formal) a large quantity that is more than enough

in abundance in large quantities: *Fruit and vegetables grew in abundance on the island.*

abundant /'æbʌndənt/ *adj.* (formal) existing in large quantities; more than enough **SYD** plentiful: *Fish are abundant in the lake.* ◊ *We have abundant evidence to prove his guilt.*

abundantly /'æbʌndəntli/ *adv.* 1 ~clear very clear: *She made her wishes abundantly clear.* 2 in large quantities: *Calcium is found most abundantly in milk.*

abuse 1 2 3 *noun, verb*

noun /'æbjʊ:s/ 1 2 3 [U, sing.] the use of sth in a way that is wrong or harmful **SYD** misuse: *alcohol/drug/solvent abuse* ◊ *The system of paying cash bonuses is open to abuse*

(= might be used in the wrong way). ◊ ~of sth arrested on charges of corruption and abuse ◊ *What she did was an abuse of her position as* ◊ see also SUBSTANCE ABUSE ▶ **WORDFINDER** NOT 2 2 3 [U, pl.] unfair, cruel or violent treatment: *sexual abuse* ◊ *reported abuses by the police* ◊ *She suffered years of physical abuse.* ◊ see also CHILD ABUSE, ELDER ABUSE, SELF-ABUSE 3 2 3 [U] rude and offensive remarks, usually made when sb is very angry **SYD** insult: *to scream/hurl/shout abuse* ◊ *a stream/ torrent of abuse*

verb /'æbjʊ:z/ 1 2 3 ~sth to make bad use of sth, or to use so much of sth that it harms your health: *to abuse alcohol/drugs* ◊ *He systematically abused his body with heroin and cocaine.* 2 2 3 ~sth to use power or knowledge unfairly or wrongly: *She abused her position as principal by giving jobs to her friends.* ◊ *He felt they had abused his trust by talking about him to the press* (= tricked him, although he had trusted them). 3 2 3 ~sb/sth to treat a person or an animal in a cruel or violent way, especially sexually: *The boy had been sexually abused.* ◊ *All the children had been physically and emotionally abused.* ◊ *abused children* 4 2 3 ~sb to make rude or offensive remarks to or about sb **SYD** insult: *The referee had been threatened and verbally abused.* ◊ *He claimed he had been racially abused.* ▶ **abuser** *noun*: a drug abuser ◊ a child abuser

abusive /'æbjʊ:sɪv/ *adj.* 1 (of speech or of a person) rude and offensive; criticizing rudely and unfairly: *abusive language/remarks* ◊ *He became abusive when he was drunk.* 2 (of behaviour) involving violence: *an abusive relationship* ◊ *emotionally/physically/sexually abusive* 3 involving the used of power or knowledge unfairly or wrongly: *the abusive practices of some businesses* ▶ **abusively** *adv.*

abut /'æbʌt/ *verb* [I, T] (IT) ~ (on/onto) sth (formal) (of land or a building) to be next to sth or to have one side touching the side of sth: *His land abuts onto a road.*

abutment /'æbʌtmənt/ *noun* a structure built to support the ends of a bridge or an ARCH

abysmal /'æbɪzməl/ *adj.* extremely bad or of a very low standard **SYD** terrible ▶ **abysmally** /-məli/ *adv.*

abyss /'æbɪs/ *noun* [usually sing.] (formal or literary) a very deep wide space or hole that seems to have no bottom: *Ahead of them was a gaping abyss.* ◊ (figurative) *an abyss of ignorance/despair/loneliness* ◊ (figurative) *The country is stepping back from the edge of an abyss.*

AC /,eɪ'si:/ *abbr.* 1 (also ac, a/c) (especially NAmE) AIR CONDITIONING 2 ALTERNATING CURRENT ◊ compare DIRECT CURRENT

a/c *abbr.* (in writing) 1 (especially BrE) account 2 AIR CONDITIONING

acacia /'ækəɪʃə/ (also **acacia tree**) *noun* a tree with yellow or white flowers. There are several types of acacia tree, some of which produce a sticky liquid used in making GLUE.

academia /,ækə'di:mɪə/ (also formal or humorous **academe** /'ækə'di:m/) *noun* [U] the world of learning, teaching, research, etc. at universities, and the people involved in it

academic 1 2 3 /,ækə'demɪk/ *adj., noun*

adj. 1 2 3 [usually before noun] connected with education, especially studying in schools and universities: *an academic career* ◊ *academic institutions* ◊ *improving the academic achievement of all students* ◊ *We are deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom.* 2 2 3 [usually before noun] involving a lot of reading and studying rather than practical or technical skills: *a mixture of vocational and academic courses* 3 good at subjects involving a lot of reading and studying: *She wasn't very academic and hated school.* 4 not connected to a real or practical situation and therefore not important: *It's a purely academic question.* ◊ *The whole thing's academic now—we can't win anyway.* ▶ **academically** /-kli/ *adv.*: *You have to do well academically to get into medical school.*

noun 1 2 3 a person who teaches and/or does research at a university or college: *a leading/distinguished/prominent academic*



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